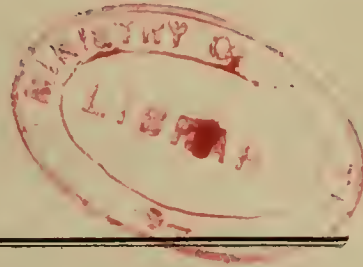


URBAN DISTRICT OF ELLESMERE, SHROPSHIRE.



MEDICAL OFFICER'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR, 1938.

Medical Officer of Health — DR. WILSON EVANS, M.B., D.P.H.
Sanitary Inspector — MR. W. H. DAVIS, M.S.I.A., A.M.I.S.E.

Fred Roberts, Printer, Ellesmere.

MEDICAL OFFICER'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1938.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE ELLESMERE URBAN
DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my first annual report as your
Medical Officer of Health.

The figures as far as they can be said to indicate the health of the town are satisfactory, the only apparently adverse figure is that for the number of deaths, which shows an increase of 13 over last year's figure of 26, and gives a natural decrease of population of deaths over births of 11, although the Registrar General estimates an increase of 15.

But since amongst the males there were no deaths between the ages of 1 year and 60 years, and only 1 amongst the females between 1 year and 53 years, whilst over half exceeded 75 years, there is nothing to suggest that there is anything wrong with the long life producing powers of the District.

Much of the detail of the report is in the work of the Sanitary Inspector, Mr. W. H. Davis, for whose help during the year I am much indebted.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

L. WILSON EVANS,
Medical Officer of Health,



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SECTION A.

Area	1,206 Acres
Number of inhabited houses according to rate books	580
Rateable Value	...	...	£10,218
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	£40
Population	...	...	1,905

The Births for year were as follows :—

	Total	M.	F.		Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	
Live Births, Legitimate	25	13	12	}		
Illegitimate	3	1	2			14.7
Stillbirths	...	2	0	}	Rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths	15.4
Deaths	...	19	20	}	Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population Corrected	20.4 16.5

Deaths from puerperal causes (Headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar General's Short List)

		Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths
No. 29. Puerperal sepsis	...	0	0
No. 30. Other puerperal causes	..	0	0
		—	—
Total		0	0
		—	—

Deaths of Infants under 1 year

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :—

All infants per 1,000 live births	...	71
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	80
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	0
Deaths from Cancer all ages	...	5
„ „ Measels „	...	0
„ „ Whooping Cough all ages	...	0
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	1

The following is a list of the causes of deaths :—

	M.	F.
Influenza ...	1	1
Tuberculosis, Respiratory System ...	1	0
Other Tuberculosis ...	0	0
Cancer ...	2	3
Diarrhoea, under 2 years of age ...	0	1
Pneumonia ...	0	1
Bronchitis ...	2	0
Other Respiratory Diseases ...	0	1
Heart Diseases ...	8	5
Other Circulatory Diseases ...	0	1
Diabetes ...	0	1
Congenital Debility, Premature Births, etc. ...	1	0
Other Liver Diseases ...	0	1
Other Defined Diseases ...	4	2
Acute and Chronic Nephritis ...	0	3
	—	—
Totals	19	20
	—	—

SECTION B.

General Provision of Health Services in the Area.

Public Health Officers :—L. Wilson Evans, M.B.B.S., L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S., D.P.H., Medical Officer of Health, also Medical Officer of Health Oswestry Borough and R.D.C., Ellesmere R.D.C. Assist. M.O.H. Salop C.C.

Mr. W. H. Davis, M.S.I.A., A.M.I.S.E., Sanitary Inspector, also Surveyor, Sewage Works Manager and Markets Superintendent.

Nursing in the home is carried out by District Nurses not under the control of the Council.

There has been no change in legislation in force, Laboratory Facilities, Hospitals, Clinics and Treatment Centres.

An improvement has been effected in the ambulance arrangements by the formation of a Joint Authority of Voluntary Contributing Councils to a new ambulance service for accident cases. The removal of infectious cases remains unchanged.

Water Supply.

The whole of the District is supplied by mains, the water being good in both quality and quantity for all domestic and business requirements, also for use in case of fire from fire hydrants in the street carriageways. The water is obtained, through the Corporation of Liverpool, from their Lake Vyrnwy supply. Several properties situate in the Ellesmere Rural Area are also supplied from the Urban water mains.

Generally, the water supply is laid on to the houses, but in three instances, supplies for several houses were obtained from a common standpipe. Of these, one has ceased to be used owing to the six houses using the supply having been condemned and now empty, in another, the owner has laid the water on to the several houses and this standpipe has been removed. One is still in use.

The water used being obtained from the source above stated, the Council have not carried out any bacteriological examination, or obtained any chemical analysis of the water during the year.

Drainage and Sewerage.

There has been no change in your sewerage works during the past year.

The Government Department of Industrial and Scientific Research ceased to use the research works at the premises of the United Dairies at the end of September for research purposes into the treatment of Milk Factory Effluents.

Immediately sufficient information was available for the treatment of milk factory effluents, Messrs. The United Dairies Company submitted plans of, and put in hand the construction of new purification works which are expected to be put into operation early in 1939. Meanwhile, the full capacity of the works used by the Government Research department previously referred to is being used for the purification of the factory effluents until their own new works are ready for being put into operation.

Investigations into two cases of drainage systems which were found not to have been connected to the new sewers have been carried out particularly with a view as to whether they were discharging into the old sewer and polluting the Tetchill Brook, but in both cases were found to have been cut off from the old sewer also, and were not acting as sources of brook pollution. In both cases, new drain systems connecting to the new sewer have been constructed.

Rivers and Streams.

A careful watch is maintained for any drains or other sources of pollution of the streams within your area, and when any cases arise, as stated above, these are followed up in order to ensure that all such cases shall discharge into the soil sewers.

During the year your Council authorised the acquisition of a complete drain and sewer testing outfit to enable this work to be thoroughly investigated with a view discovering any doubtful or possible sources of pollution, and their abatement if such are found to exist.

Closet Accommodation.

With the exception of a few houses and farms on the outskirts of your District, the whole of the properties in your area is on the water carriage system. All new houses erected during the past year have been within the area served by the sewers, and have been connected thereto. The exceptions are as follows, and all are outside the limits of the sewers :—

Number of Privies	3
Number of Pails	3
Number of Cesspools	5

The cleansing of the above privies, pails and cesspools is carried out by the occupiers and the contents are disposed of on the gardens attached to the houses.

Public Cleansing

The refuse collection of your area is carried out by contract a covered cart being used for the purpose.

The collection and disposal of trade refuse is carried out by the tradesmen themselves, an incinerator being provided at the Birch Road tip for the destruction of combustible refuse.

Metallic refuse is collected and disposed of at the Haughton Lane tip, about a mile and half out of the town.

Observation for rats at the tips is kept, and as necessary, Red Squill baits are used, also it is proposed to blow Cyanide Powder down the runs before stopping them up. The use of this powder will only be carried out under the direct personal supervision of the Sanitary Inspector.

Sanitary Inspection of Area.

The number and nature of visits made during year are :—

Bakehouses	...	...	28
Slaughterhouses	...	...	570
Meat and Food Shops	...	...	128
Factories, Workshops and Workplaces	...	...	35
Cowsheds, Dairies and Milkshops	...	...	63
Public Urinals and Public Lavatories	...	...	330
Nuisances	...	...	42

Number of Notices served during the Year :—

Statutory	...	...	2
Informal	...	...	14
Verbal	...	...	33
Number of Prosecutions	...	...	1

With regard to the above prosecution, this was against an occupier for leaving a dirty house. A conviction was secured with a Penalty of £1, and an Order to abate the nuisance within 7 days. The Order was complied with.

Shops and Offices.

No particular action has been taken under this heading.

Camping Sites.

No special camping sites were used during the year and no camping Licences under Section 269. P.H.A. 1936 have been applied for.

The maximum number of campers in the district at any one time was 6, and the longest period of stay was 10 days

Camping by tinkers and gypsies within the Urban Area is strongly discouraged, and is forbidden under Byelaws at the Mereside.

Smoke Abatement.

No. of Observations	...	4
Cases needing further action	...	0

There was found to be no cause for complaint under this heading. All power boilers in the District are fitted with mechanical stokers.

Swimming and Bathing Pools.

There are no public baths in the district.

Bathing takes place in the "Mere", which is a large natural lake of over 100 acres, and is privately owned.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

There are no known case of infestation by bed bugs in the district. Observation for these pests is kept during house visits.

Schools.

Owing to the unsatisfactory condition of the present schools, it was decided to provide a new Council School. The site has been purchased, and the plans approved by the Board of Education. It remains now for the schools to be erected, which it is to be hoped will not be much longer delayed.

Housing.

(1)	Total number of houses Inspected	32
	Number of Inspections	69
	Number of dwelling houses recorded	21
	Number of Inspections for preceding item	60
	Number found to be unfit for habitation	7
	Number found to be not in proper repair	14
(2)	Number remedied in consequence of informal action by Officer or Local Authority	11
(3)	Action under Statutory Powers :—	
	Number in respect of which notices were served	10
	„ rendered fit by Owners	9
	„ „ Local Authority	0
	„ of notices in hand at year end	1
Action under Public Health Acts :—		
	Number of Notices served	3
	Number rendered fit by Owners	3
	„ „ Local Authority	0
Action under sections 11 & 13 Housing Act 1936 :—		
	Number of Demolition Orders or Undertakings given by Owners	7
	Number demolished by Owners	2
	Improvement of house by combining two houses into one	1
	Undertakings accepted to render fit	2
	Number in hand for demolition at year end	4
Overcrowding :—		
	Number of dwelling overcrowded at year end	0
	„ of families therein	0
	„ of persons therein	0
	„ of New Cases during year	3
	„ of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	3
	„ of persons concerned in such cases	12
	„ of cases of re-overcrowding after abatement	0
	Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding for report of Medical Officer	0

SECTION E. Inspection and Supervision of Food

Milk Supply.

Number of persons on Retail Register of Purveyors	10
Number of persons on Register of Wholesale Traders and Producers	9
Number of persons on Register of Dairies	9
Number of Inspections of Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops	63
Number of persons on the Accredited list of Producers and holding bottling Licences	2

One dairy was suspended from supplying milk for a period of seven weeks due to the occurrence of Diphtheria on the premises, also ice cream for the same period and reason.

Slaughter Houses.

The old slaughterhouses, three in Jenk's Yard, and one in Talbot Street, are still in use, and all are in a delapidated condition and require renewal.

All waste offals are regularly collected and taken away for conversion into artificial manures.

Humane killers are in general use. These comprise the Cash captive bolt ; Schermer captive bolt, and the Greener Humane killer.

Number of Slaughter House Inspections	...	570
Number of informal notices served	...	7

The provisions in the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, with regard to slaughterhouses enable owners of these buildings to decide their own future, and should produce a considerable improvement under this heading.

Meat and Carcase Inspection.

Number of Butcher's shops within the Urban Area	6
" " stalls " "	2
" " killing " "	5
" " " outside "	3
" " with mixed trade of beef, pork & mutton, etc.	7
" " in pork and bacon trade, etc.	1

There are no foreign meat shops, and no horseflesh shops.

Carcase Inspections.

General Note:—The class of cattle killed for food within the District are graded or super graded bullocks under 2 years old, and very occasionally, a barren heifer, also of a graded class. Bulls and Cows are not killed for the trade within the district, but are usually sold in the Smithfield to visiting dealers and are transported away. The majority of the cattle killed are seen before slaughter. All those seen were free from any apparent signs of disease, and in only one case was there any signs of warble swelling. The total number killed was 121. There were no casualty slaughters, and no general condemnations. One beast liver was destroyed for Cirrhosis.

With regard to calves, whilst large numbers are sold in the Smithfield, only very few are killed within the district for food, the remainder being transported away. The total killed was 18. All were well grown, milk fed, and found to be healthy in all respects.

With regard to sheep and lambs, 484 carcasses were examined during the year. In five cases the livers were condemned and destroyed for Cirrhosis and Liver Fluke. Apart from these livers all the carcasses were found to be sound and healthy, and good quality carcasses.

With regard to pigs, the class of animal killed in the district comprises mainly hogs and gilts, with occasionally a large sow. Sows and boars are transported away to the large factors mainly.

The total number brought in for slaughter was 1,115, of which 1,114 were slaughtered. Included in the total were four animals brought in for emergency slaughter, one with a sprained back, two with fractured legs, and one moribund. The moribund animal died and was at once removed to the knacker's yard at Hordley under official observation. One case of diamonds was seen, three pig's heads were condemned and destroyed for Tuberculosis in the Submaxillary Glands, and one pleura was stripped under official observation for adhesions, also the lungs in this case were condemned and destroyed.

Carcasses Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle excluding cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs	
Number Killed	121	0	18	484	1,114	
Number Inspected	121	0	18	484	1,115	X
All Diseases except Tuberculosis						
Whole carcasses condemned	0	0	0	0	1	
Part carcass or organ condemned	1	0	0	5	6	
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than T.B.	.008%	0	0	.011%	.0063%	
Tuberculosis only						
Whole carcasses condemned	0	0	0	0	0	
Part carcass or organ condemned	0	0	0	0	3	
Percentage of inspected carcasses affected with Tuberculosis	0	0	0	0	.0026%	

X Includes moribund carcass referred to.

There is no meat marking scheme in force in this district, under Part III of the Public Health (Meat,) Regulations, 1924.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT 1928.

Adulteration.

This work is carried out by the Salop County Council and there is no change since the last report, neither is there any change as to Chemical and Bacteriological examination of food.

Shell Fish (Molluscan).

There are no shell fish beds or layings in the District, therefore any need for action on the part of the Local Authority under the P.H. (Cleansing of Shell-fish) Act, 1932, or the P.H. (Shell-fish) Regulations, 1934, has not arisen.

Infectious Diseases.

Disinfection is carried out after all occurrences of infectious disease, all rooms being first sprayed with Formalin solution, and then followed by Fomalin vapour, and sealing of the room for 24 hours where possible, bedding and other contents of the room being retained in the room for treatment.

Notifiable Diseases.

Scarlet Fever :	Ages 5 years to 10 years	3	} 5
„ „ :	„ 20 „ „ 35 „	2	
Diphtheria :	„ 3 „ „ 4 „	1	} 2
„ :	„ 5 „ „ 10 „	1	

Of the Scarlet Fever cases, 3 were removed to Monkoor Isolation Hospital.

Diphtheria. Artificial Immunisation.

A scheme of diphtheria immunisation was decided upon in 1937.

The treatment was carried out by the Medical Practitioners.

The prophylactic used was Alum Precipitated Toxoid, one dose being given.

The number of children injected during the year was 29.

The Council has now decided that two doses of A.P.T. shall be given in future.

Tuberculosis.

No action was necessary under the Public Heath (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, nor under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

New Cases and Mortality during 1938.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory		Non Respiratory		Respiratory		Non Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
25—35 years	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
35—45 „	2*	—	1	—	1	—	—	—
45—55 „	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—65 „	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Totals	3	—	1	1	1	—	—	1

* Both transferred from other districts.

